

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 11754 150337Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----062301 150342Z /62

O 150300Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7259
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 11754

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IS EG
SUBJ: URGENT ISRAELI CONCERN OVER EGYPTIAN MILITARY INTENTIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 5164

1. HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT WOULD SUGGEST EGYPTIANS
PLANNING MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL JULY 17 OR
ANY TIME NEAR FUTURE. STORY SIMPLY DOES NOT FIT IN
WITH PATTERN THAT PRESIDENT HAS ADOPTED OF TRYING TO
CREATE POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR CARTER/BEGIN TALKS,
E.G., PROMISED WITHDRAWAL OF EXCESS TROOPS FROM ZONE
OF LIMITED ARMAMENTS, RETURN OF ISRAELI BODIES, ETC.

2. OUR DATT HAS REPORTED NOTHING OF IMPENDING LARGE-
SCALE EXERCISE INVOLVING SECOND AND THIRD ARMIES,
THOUGH THIS POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED. WILL
REQUEST HIM LOOK INTO MATTER ASAP. WE HAVE HAD SOME
SUGGESTION--THOUGH NOT DIRECTLY FROM EGYPTIANS--THAT
SOME SORT OF ACTIONS AGAINST LIBYA MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATED
IN NEAR FUTURE, BUT AT THIS POINT WE UNABLE TO CONFIRM.
EGYPTIANS HAVE STOPPED TALKING TO US ABOUT THEIR
INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS LIBYA, SINCE THEY HARBOR SUSPICIONS
ABOUT OUR POSITION RE QADHAFI.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 11754 150337Z

3. IN ABSENCE DEPT INSTRUCTIONS, I SEE NO JUSTIFICATION
GOING TO EGYPTIANS AT 0300 LOCAL (WHICH IS TIME NOW)
TO DEMAND ASSURANCES ON BASIS WEIZMAN 0800 DEADLINE.
SADAT IS IN ANY CASE IN ALEXANDRIA AND I DO NOT KNOW
WHERE GAMASY IS AT THE MOMENT. HE HAS BEEN SHUTTTLING
BETWEEN ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO AND OTHER PARTS OF COUNTRY.

FAHMY IS IN CAIRO, BUT WERE I TO CALL HIM AT THIS HOUR
SIMPLY BECUASE WEIZMAN WANTS ANSWER BY 0800, HE WOULD
VIEW THIS AS ISRAELI ULTIMATUM AND EXPLODE. IN THE
CIRCUMSTANCES, ANY SUCH CALL TO HIM IS NOT LIKELY TO
PROVIDE NEEDED ANSWER.

4. WHILE ALL SIGNS KNOWN TO US HERE HARDLY WARRANT
HIGH DEGREE OF ISRAELI CONCERN, I FULLY APPRECIATE
NEED TO ALLAY THEIR WORRIES IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. WILL
TY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH FAHMY LATER TODAY (IT IS MUSLIM
SABBATH) TO SEE WHAT HE CAN OR WILL TELL ME, BUT IT
WOULD FRANKLY BE BETTER IF I WERE SPEAKING FROM USG
RATHER THAN ISRAELI SCRIPT. IF ON BASIS INFO AVAILABLE
TO WASHINGTON, DEPT WISHES ME RAISE THIS MATTER WITH
FAHMY ON URGENT BASIS, PLEASE INSTRUCT.

5. NOTE: REGRET DESPATCH OF THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN
DELAYED FOR AN HOUR OR MORE. IT IS NOW 0415 LOCAL.
REASON IS THAT ONE OF MARINE GUARDS AT RESIDENCE HAS
JUST SHOT AN EGYPTIAN GURAD ON DUTY HERE. EGYPTIAN
PREIMETER GUARDS ARE REFUSING TO ALLOW ANYONE IN
RESIDENCE COMPOUND, INCLUDING COMMUNICATOR WHO BROUGHT
REFERENCE MESSAGE, OUT OF COMPOUND. WE ARE GETTING
MEDICAL HELP AND ADVISING POLICE. WILL REPORT DETAILS
OF SHOOTING AS SOON AS WE HAVE CLEAR PICTURE.

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 11754 150337Z

SECRET

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770754/aaaabutl.tel
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